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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	China	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>	25X1
SUBJECT	Movement of Troops from Korea and Northeast China	DATE DISTR.	13 August 1953	
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1. In early July about 30,000 personnel from five armies of the 4 Field Army, including personnel of the 40, 48, and 50 Armies, were based along the Peiping-Tientsin and Canton-Hankow railways for rest and replacement. Two-thirds of these troops were Korean war veterans and the remainder had been based in Northeast China. Transfer of all these troops was begun in May 1953, and the regiment was used as the unit of transfer.¹
2. In early June about 3,000 wounded Chinese Communist soldiers arrived in Ch'angsha (N 28-12, E 112-59) from Korea and filled all Ch'angsha hospitals. Wounded soldiers who were able to walk were unruly and undisciplined in the city, creating disputes with shop keepers. Reports of these disturbances were published in the Ch'angsha Jih Pao.
3. In early June about 20,000 newly trained soldiers in Ch'angsha were assigned as replacements in regiments of the 4 Field Army.
4. In early July about 20,000 recruits from Hunan arrived in Ch'angsha. The majority of these recruits were between 17 and 23 years old, and they joined the army because they were promised two meals daily.
5. In late June over 13,000 militia volunteers from Kwangtung, Kwangsi, and Hupeh who were assembled at Wuhan left for the Northeast.

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1. [] Comment. Available information indicates that in May and June of 1953 there was a concentration of "unused" railroad coaches and freight cars in Northeast China, which might indicate rotation of veteran Chinese Communist troops from Korea and Northeast China. In early June available information still placed the 40 and 50 Armies in Korea, while components or detached elements of the 48 Army were identified as possibly being in Northeast China or Korea.

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[] Comment. [] the 48 Army was accepted as being 25X1 in South China, but it has never been known for sure whether or not any units from this outfit were sent as replacements to Korea. In February 1953 there were inconclusive reports of northward movements, probably referring to the dispatch of the 143 Division (part of the 48 Army) to Korea as replacements but no confirmation was received. As to the transfer of the three armies from Korea, such a move of veteran units is not unexpected. Withdrawal by regiments, though possible, is not in accord with previous practice.

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